

City of Galion

Water Treatment

Annual Drinking Water Report

Prepared for 2020 Operations

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate and comment on decisions regarding your drinking water at regular meetings of the Galion City Council, which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Questions?

More detailed information is provided in the City of Galion's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling Jaime Mendoza at the Galion Water Plant at (419) 468-1393.

For more information about this report, or any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jaime Mendoza at the City of Galion Water Plant at (419) 468-1393.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



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PWS ID# OH 1700211

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Galion receives its drinking water from the Rocky Fork of the Olen-tangy River, a surface water source, which flows into Amman's Reservoir south of Galion in Morrow County. All surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are accessible and can be readily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens with relatively short travel times from the source to the intake. The City of Galion is fortunate that we are near the top of our water shed and as such we are less susceptible to contaminants due to the short travel time from the watershed to our water plant.

The City of Galion has the ability during a water emergency to draw water from the City of Crestline. In 2020 the City of Galion did not use this resource. This report does not contain information on the water quality of the City of Crestline, but a copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by contacting James Wyer at (419) 295-3260.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines-on-appropriate means-to-lessen-the-risk-of-infection-by-Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Source Water Assessment

In 2003 the Ohio EPA conducted a Source Water Assessment for the City of Galion. Copies of this report can be obtained at the Galion Water Plant. Based on the information compiled in our source water assessment, the City of Galion Public Water System is considered susceptible to agricultural runoff, industrial/commercial sources, and oil/gas production activities and transportation related spills. While the source water for the city of Galion Public Water System is considered susceptible to contamination, historically, the Galion Water Plant has effectively treated this source water to meet drinking water quality standards. More detailed information is provided in the City of Galion's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, which can be obtained by calling Jaime Mendoza at the Galion Water Plant at (419) 468-1393.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Substances that could be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead and Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Galion Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/labs.aspx> or by calling 614-644-2752.

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During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Substances Detected during Sampling	Sample Year	What's Allowed? (MCL)	What's the goal? (MCLG)	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological Contaminants							
TURBIDITY (NTU)	2020	TT	N/A	0.16	0.04-0.16	No	Soil runoff, Sediment suspension
TURBIDITY (% meeting standard)	2020	TT	N/A	100.0%	100%	No	Soil runoff, Sediment Suspension
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)	2020	TT	N/A	1.49	1.43-2.64	No	Naturally Present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
FLUORIDE (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.19	N/A	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.38	<0.1-0.38	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides							
ATRAZINE (ppb)	2020	3	3	0.26	N/A	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts							
TOTAL CHLORINE* (ppm)	2020	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.22	0.9-1.41	No	Drinking Water Additive for disinfection
HAA5 [HALOACETIC ACIDS] (ppb)	2020	60	N/A	23.93	14.6-25.1	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM [Total Trihalomethane] (ppb)	2020	80	N/A	68.85	31.6-94.9	No	By-Product of drinking water chlorination
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Sample Period	Action Level	Individual results over action level	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminants	
COPPER (ppm)	SEP 2019	1.3	N/A	0.042	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
	0 out of 28 samples were found to have copper in excess of the copper AL of 1.3 ppm.						

Chlorine in drinking water is a residual from the disinfection process, this is denoted with an "*" symbol.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2019, The City of Galion Water Treatment Plant participated in the fourth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4)/ for a copy of the results please call the Filtration Plant at 419 468-1393.

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We have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.

Definitions

In the table above, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: not applicable

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ND (Not Detected): indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$): one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.



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Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing; the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottle water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulation bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about .49. Even if you installed a filter device on you tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

The City of Galion's water routinely beats the industry standard for turbidity in bottled water. Galion has nominal range of 0.03-0.06, whereas the industry standard for bottled water in 0.051-0.1. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their website at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

Protecting Our Water from Backflow

Homes with underground irrigation systems and most non-residential buildings are required by the Division of Water to have a backflow prevention device. These backflow devices protect the public water system from any potentially contaminated water flowing into the public system from a customers' plumbing. Some examples requiring backflow systems include: swimming pools, restaurants, medical facilities, laboratories, car washes, automotive shops, industrial sites, and property with a well or pond.

A cross-connection is a physical connection between a possible source of contamination and the drinking water system piping. If the pressure of the source of contamination is greater than the water system pressure, contaminated water may backflow into the drinking water system. Pressure drops in the public water system caused by water line breaks, pump failures, and fire-fighting can also cause a backflow situation. If our rules and regulations require a backflow preventer, it must be tested annually by a tester you hire who is approved by our office. For more information about backflow prevention and cross-connection control please visit our website at <http://galion.city/>

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is .3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, Galion's highest recorded turbidity result for 2020 was .16 NTU and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

The value reported under "level found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest running annual average ratio between the percentages of TOC actually removed. A value of greater than (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. The value reported under "Range of detection" for TOC is the lowest monthly ratio to the highest monthly ratio.

Disinfection byproducts are the result of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.